

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, November 15, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Terry Kloepfel, Marin Blevins, Bill Pauls, Dennis Knudson, Dan Devine

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Gary Ristow, Tammy Miller

Kloepfel called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Blevins.

Minutes: The October minutes were approved on a motion from Blevins, seconded by Devine.

Monthly Report:

Ristow reported that in the new fiscal year, it was decided to improve the way some of the attendance numbers were reported in the Community Recreation division. There had been some inconsistencies in the past, and Ristow said staff was attempting to be more consistent in reporting numbers in the same categories from month to month.

Blevins asked about the Riechmann Pavilion and how far in advance reservations were taken?

Ristow answered that reservations could be made up to two years in advance, to accommodate the large number of wedding receptions held there.

The October monthly report was approved on a motion from Pauls, seconded by Knudson.

Regional Park Plan

Hood informed the Commission that two public meetings had been held on November 8 and 12 to gather input on the future of the new park. He mentioned there were about 14 participants at the first meeting and about 35 at the second meeting. The attendees broke into small groups and came up with ideas which were shared with the whole group. Those results are being tabulated by Parks staff, Hood said. There was strong interest in an equestrian center, nature center, trails and the usual park amenities. There were also unique ideas such as a community orchard, safety town, skate park, edible landscaping and others.

Hood said the next step in the planning process is to hold focus group meetings, preferably before the holidays in December. A Web survey is also online at www.gocolumbiamo.com to gather even more input and get recommendations for the name of the park on the south side of Gans Road (Crane property).

Knudson commented that he had hoped to see a larger turnout at the meetings and said it was organized very well. He added it was nice to see Mrs. Crane in attendance.

Pauls added that the meetings seemed like an opening salvo for the planning process. He thought it was a good discussion at both meetings.

Hood acknowledged he would have liked to see larger crowds, similar to the Stephens Lake planning process. However, Stephens Lake was a controversial topic and this one has not gotten that type of attention. Kloepfel asked if Mrs. Crane spoke in favor of an equestrian related feature at the park?

Hood said yes, they have horses now and believes the family would like to see horses involved in the park in some way.

Knudson mentioned the idea of not hiring a consultant to help in the planning process.

Hood said yes, it had been mentioned that money not be spent on a consultant. He said parks staff would like to bring in a national expert on environmental controls, as that is such a sensitive topic and of utmost importance in planning the park.

Pauls suggested that there may be state and federal agencies willing to work with the Parks staff, something similar to the Department of Conservation with cultural resources specialists and geologists, rather than spending a great deal of money.

Mid-America State Games

Ristow said the Parks and Recreation staff had been approached by the Show-Me State Games to see if they would host this event, which would bring 8 states together in athletic competition. The top two or three from each state in events such as baseball and archery, would compete in Columbia the first weekend of August in 2008. Ristow said staff is considering the request. The goal of the Mid-America Games would be to have a national competition in Columbia in 2011.

Hood commented it would be a challenge for staff to have facilities and fields ready for heavy use for three straight weekends next summer, but he believes it could be done.

Kloepfel asked if it would conflict with Show-Me Games?

Ristow said it would be the third weekend of Show Me Games and our facilities are not as heavily used then.

Devine asked if high school football would impact it?

Ristow said no, it would not.

ARC Anniversary

Ristow mentioned that the ARC is nearly 5 years old and credited Erika Coffman and the ARC staff for the great condition and appearance of the facility. He said the week of Dec. 10, there would be special promotions and giveaways to celebrate the 5th anniversary. A breakfast will be held the morning of December 12 and invitations will be sent.

2008 MPRA Conference

The conference will be held at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at the Lake of the Ozarks from Feb. 26-29, 2008. Registration materials will likely be sent during December.

Hood told the Commission the City Manager has directed all city departments to cut travel and training by 25 percent in the wake of the bad budget conditions. He believes that applies to City Commissions and Boards as well as staff. Hood said the Parks and Recreation Department would likely take a van to the conference daily since it is a close drive, so we could save on overnight accommodations. He said if Commissioners are interested, please let Tammy Miller know.

Council Items

Hood shared these updates:

Cosmo Park: A final hearing is scheduled on the new restrooms by the shelters. They will replace the older restrooms that are at least 40 years old. A new restroom and shelter are also planned at Cosmo-Bethel.

PMC: A public hearing will be held on updates at the Park Management Center. There is extensive water damage at the building, which needs to be repaired.

TRIM Grant: Also on the Council agenda is notification of the TRIM Grant, which is in the amount of \$9,000. The grant is one we receive on a regular basis and is used for tree improvements throughout the city.

Capital Project Update

Hood shared updates as follows:

Lake of the Woods: Preparations have been made to set a pre-fabricated restroom at the golf course, as well as at MKT accesses at Forum and Scott, and at Fairview and Kiwanis Parks. The slabs are in place and those sites will be closed for short period of time while the restrooms are placed.

Harris Shelter: Work on the shelter continues.

Cliff Drive Park: A playground modular unit was placed at this small park. A retaining wall had to be built

since the park is on a hillside.

Hickman Baseball field: New foul line fences have been installed.

ARC: A new ultraviolet water treatment system has been installed, which is expected to eliminate a lot of the chloramine in the air. Staff has said they notice a difference already. Plans are to install UV systems at Hickman Pool and at the spraygrounds.

Stephens Lake Park: Work is progressing on the pump house at the new sprayground. Boulders have been placed at the rain garden site.

Longview Park: Curbs and walkways are being constructed. A dedication will likely be held in the spring.

Twin Lakes: About 80 volunteers from the Church of the Latter Day Saints asked about doing a project for Make a Difference Day. The volunteers undertook the fencing of the leash-free area at Twin Lakes. They installed the fence, cleared brush and planted new trees.

Commission Comments

Kloeppel asked if the December meeting would be cancelled, as usual?

Hood answered if the Commission desired, the meeting would be cancelled unless a matter of urgent business arises.

Staff Comments

Ristow commented on the recent carjacking at the ARC. Staff met after the incident to discuss what measures to take. Lighting in the parking lot is being reviewed and exterior security cameras are being considered. Ristow said staff felt it was important to do everything possible to ensure safety and to reassure the public.

Devine asked if there were any security cameras in the parks?

Ristow said there were cameras inside the ARC but that was it. Cameras are being considered in other areas.

Kloeppel commented it seemed the carjacking was a random act, and that it did not reflect badly on Parks and Recreation staff at all.

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.